

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of Great Oaks Water Company (U 162-W) for an Order authorizing it to increase rates for water service for its total service area.

Application 02-11-048
(Filed November 27, 2002)

SCOPING MEMO AND RULING OF ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER

Great Oaks Water Company (GOWC) requests a revenue increase for its total company operations by \$2,811,000, or 35.5%, in 2003, and by \$978,000, or 9.0%, in 2004, 2005, and 2006. GOWC also requests recovery of approximately \$2,647,000 in balancing/memorandum account undercollections by a usage surcharge to be effective for 36 months. The Commission's Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA) filed a protest and plans to participate in this proceeding.

The Commission held a prehearing conference on January 22, 2003. This ruling confirms the preliminary Ratesetting categorization in Resolution ALJ 176-3102 and preliminary determination that hearings are necessary. It also sets the proceeding's scope and schedule and confirms the principal hearing officer.

1. Categorization and the Need for Hearings

This ruling confirms the Commission's preliminary Ratesetting categorization in Resolution ALJ 176-3102 and that hearings are necessary. This ruling is appealable as to categorization only under Rule 6.4.

2. Scope of this Proceeding

The principal issue is whether it is appropriate for the Commission to grant GOWC's requested revenue increase. Any of the estimates upon which the proposed revenue requirements and rates for the test and attrition years are based may be issues of dispute in the hearings.

3. Schedule

Event	Schedule
ORA serves testimony or exhibit	Monday, March 10, 2003
Evidentiary Hearings	Monday, March 17, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. and March 18-21 at 9:30 a.m. in the Commission's Courtroom, State Office Building, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California
Concurrent Briefs	To be confirmed by future ruling but tentatively Thursday, April 10, 2003
Proposed Decision issues	40 days after briefs filed

Our goal is to resolve this proceeding as soon as possible after it is submitted, and we anticipate that resolution will occur in any event within 18 months from the date of the filing of the application.

4. Principal Hearing Officer

Pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 1701.3 Commissioner Brown designates Administrative Law Judge Grau as the principal hearing officer.

5. Ex Parte Communications

Rules 7(c), (f), (g), and 7.1 apply to this proceeding.

6. Public Participation

The Commission's Public Advisor's office will coordinate public comment in this proceeding.

IT IS RULED that:

1. The Commission's preliminary Ratesetting categorization in Resolution ALJ 176-3102 and preliminary determination that hearings are necessary are confirmed. This ruling, as to categorization only, is appealable under Rule 6.4.
2. The schedule and scope of this proceeding are as set forth in Sections 2 and 3.
3. Rules 7(c), (f), (g), and 7.1 apply to this proceeding regarding ex parte communications.

Dated February 10, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ GEOFFREY F. BROWN

Geoffrey F. Brown
Assigned Commissioner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Scoping Memo and Ruling of Assigned Commissioner on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated February 10, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ JEANNIE CHANG

Jeannie Chang

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074, TTY 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.